' what are the reasons for the shortfall; if any, in- achievement of the target; and

(d) whether it js a fact that there is a ban on opening of new post offices; jf so, since when 'and what are the reasons theiefor and by when it i_s proposed to be lifted jn Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Information is furnished in the en- Staiement *(See below).*

: end (c) During 1983-84, 278 rural post offices were due to be opened against 261 were actu'ally opened. The shortfall $_0$f 16 was due to the fact that Central Government ban on creation ams into effect in January, 1984. Foi t'he same reason, against the target of: '. 55 villages to be brought under mobile pos. al counte$_r$' scheme, 236 villages were actually covered.

During 1984-85 and 1985-86, due to . onlsinuance of the ban no programme of opening' of post offices/extension of mobile services was implemented. However, on the basis of a special relaxation given by the Ministry of Finance, 6 -rural pos] office, were opened in the Circle during 1984-85.

I No, Sir. There is no ban on open ing of post offices as such. There is, how ever. a ban imposed by the Central Gov ernment on creation $_0$f posts. As opening of new post offices involves sanction of posts, no programme of opening of post offices is being imple- mented. However, according to recent instructions, additional manpower required for the implementation $_0$f Plan schemes can be approved by the Ministry of Fi-nan;: e. The Department is at present ta- king a fresh look at the norms for opening of post Offices in rural 'areas in tbe light of recommendations of the Committee of En- quiry on extra-departmental system and other relevant circumstances. The proposal is that as and when this exercise is completed, a fresh survey may be conducted and to the extent justified, proposals for opening of post offices may be taken up with the Ministry of Finance. This position holds good f°r Mad'hya Pradesh as for other postal Circles.

Statement

TRIBAL AREAS

Jhabua, Maudla, Sutgnja and Bastar dis- tricts and TehsilsJblockJvillages notifiej as tribal in the districts of Dhar, Kargone, Khandwa, Ratlam, Betul, (including Betul Community Development block) Seoni., Balaghat, Hosangabad, Shahdol, Siddi, Raj. garh, Bilaspur, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Raipur, Morefi'a and Chhindwara.

BACKWARD AREAS

Morena, Shivpuri, Guna, Sagar, Damoh, Vidisha, Khargone and Rajnand Gaon Distt. (Excluding urban areas|agglomera_ tion), Panna, Sidhi and shahdol Districts in Madhya Pradesh. Harsud Tehsil of East Nimar District 'and Seoni Tehsil of Seoni District.

Practicability of New tinftngs of Central Government Offices

3126. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased I to state:

(a) w'nether Government have received any representations from Public against the invonvenience caused by 5 day week in Government Offices;

(b) whether the working hours has re- cently been increased for Government Offices to make up the deficiency of granting one extra weekly holiday;

(c) whether any realistic assessment been made of the practicability of the new timings from the point of view of punctuality and staff convenience and if so, what are the result thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose t° •consider to revert back to the 6 day week?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRl BIREN SINGH ENGTI). (a) No serious complaint from, or any specific instance of inconvenience to, the general public has been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

(b) The increase in working hours by 30 minutes per day for the office staff of the Central Government with effect from 17-11-86 was not done to make up the deficiency arising out of granting one extra weekly holiday. The increase was effected after taking a decision in the light of 4th Pay Commission's Recommendations that the working hours of office staff in Central Government may be suitably increased.

(c) Befoie increase of working hours, the Government of India Administrative Offices were working for seven hours Per day (including half an hour for lunch) within the limits prescribed for commerce-ment and closwe of offices, namely, 9. 00 A. M. and 6. 00 P. M. Even after increase in daily working hours by 30 minutes office timings have been adjusted within these limits.

(d) There is no such proposal at the moment.

Export and uprootment of rare herbs from ' Himalayas

3127. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many medicinal rare herbs found m the Himalayas are uprooted and exported;

(b) if so, whether Government have drawn up any plan to ensure that these herbs do not become extinct; and (c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRl Z. R. ANSARI): (a) There are some reports regarding exploitation of r^re herbs found in Himalayas.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

2128. *[Transferred to the 3rd December,* 1986.]

Complaints of over and excessive charging by Telecommunications Department

3129. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI; Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the number of complaints against over or excessive billing by the Telecommunications Department received by Government during the first half of 1986 and what are the figures for the cor responding period in 1985; and

(b) what are the details of remedial ac tion taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN *DEV),* (a) The number of complaints against over and excessive billing by the Telecommunications Department received by Government during the first half of 1986 is 42, 702 and that for the corresponding per. iod in 1985 is 41, 446.

(b) The following steps are taken to reduce the incidence of over billing:

(1) To avoid clearical errors, instructions have already been issued to all the units to ensure proper care in billing and to rectify the mistakes if any, immediately and issue & revised bill to the subscribed wherever necessary. Moreover to eliminate mistakes in computation, the work of telephone billing and accounting has been computerised in the Metro districts of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras.

(2) As far as technical faults are concerned the following steps have been taken: